

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/729,583

Examiner

Joe H. Cheng

Applicant(s)

FAI ET AL.

Art Unit

3715

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 12/15/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21-55.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date see below
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

3. IDS Paper No./Mail Date:
1/7/06, 3/3/06,
5/5/06, 6/5/06, 2/1/07, 2/23/07, and
2/23/07

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Peter Tong (applicant's attorney) on April 10, 2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

On col. 1, replace the first paragraph as following:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Reissue Patent Application Serial No. 10/264,552, filed on October 6, 2002, now U.S. Pat. No. RE38,432 E, and is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/474,278, filed on December 29, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,160,987, which is the continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/015,653, filed on January 29, 1998, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,029,043, all incorporated by reference into this application. --.

In the claims:

Rewrite claim 55 as following:

--55. A computer-implemented group-learning method for more than one user to work on a subject, the method comprising:

setting, by a computing device, a time for a group of users to start a dialogue session to work on materials related to the subject so as to provide an interactive environment to help the users learn;

monitoring, by a computing device, at least one user's inputs during the dialogue session so as to have the monitored inputs for analysis to determine if the user has been distracted from the subject; and

helping, by a computing device, the at least one user in view of the user being distracted from the subject for a duration of time, as indicated by the analysis.

Cancel claims 1-20.

3. Applicant is informed that in response to the Amendment filed on December 15, 2005, claims 82-115 have been renumbered as claims 21-54 and claims 1-20 have been cancelled in accordance with 37 CFR §1.126. In addition, applicant is informed that the publication of "Answer to Complaint; Counterclaim by Plateau Systems, Ltd." cited in the two Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on February 23, 2007 and the IDS filed on February 1, 2007 are crossed out by the Examiner and have not been considered by the Examiner, because CFR § 1.98 requirement is not met. Specifically, the copy of the publication is missing. Moreover, all the US Patents cited on one of the IDS filed on February 23, 2007 are also crossed out and not considered by the Examiner, because these are the duplicates of the other IDS filed on February 23, 2007.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Rainey et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,799,315) discloses the method and apparatus for event-tagging data entries as separate data segments in a data file. The computer detects whether each data entry constitutes one of a set of predefined events. The events include the beginning of a new line of text, the beginning of a new paragraph, the passage of some predetermined amount of time, the entry of graphical objects into a text document, and so on. If the data file consists of a handwritten series of notes on a pen-driven notebook computer and the event tagging includes time-tagging or time-stamping the notes, then they may be displayed along with their time stamps, thus providing an easy review of when each portion of the notes was entered.

Wadahama et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,024,577) teaches the network-based education system for allowing an instructor to give a lecture to a plurality of students via a computer network, where the instructor can grasp the individual students' understanding levels at his/her discretion and take appropriate supplementary actions to the students in accordance with their respective understanding levels. Sales et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,233,600 B1) discloses the method and system for providing a network, collaborative network environment to allow a group of users to share work and files, engage in discussions related to a common project, and otherwise collaborate. The users interact with Web browsers executing on their client workstation to access Web pages that allow them to participate in ongoing discussions, create new discussions about project topics, upload files to a common area associated with Web pages, download files and edit files that have been uploaded to the Web page by other members of the project team, and create new pages of various types and link them to existing ones.

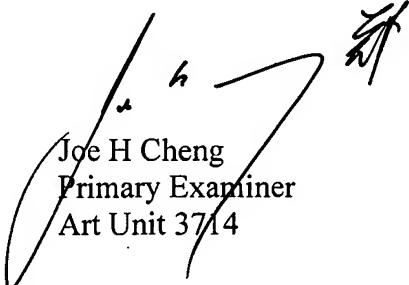
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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe H. Cheng whose telephone number is (571) 272-4433. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue. - Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Joe H. Cheng
March 20, 2007



Joe H Cheng
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714